POL 14 VIETS

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ACTION EA 19

INFO SAL 01, GPM 03, SC 01, RSC 01, USIA 12, H 02, NSC 10, NSA 02, L 03,
INR 07, P 04, CIA 04, DOD 01, SP 02, SS 35, SAH 02, AID 30, IO 21,
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R 141035Z AUG 67
FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4568
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK 3777
CINCPAC
AMCONSUL DANANG 722
AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE 2150

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REF: SAIGON 2546 - Pol 14 Vietns

1. SECOND ROUND OF RADIO APPEARANCES BY PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES COMPLETED AUGUST 13 WITH RADIO TALKS BY SUU-DAN, HIEP-TRUYEN AND CO-SINH ON AUGUST 12 AND BY HUYNH CONG DUONG,

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RUNNING MATE OF TRAN VAN LY, ON AUGUST 13. THIEU AND KY WERE SCHEDULED TO APPEAR ON AUGUST 13 BUT DID NOT DO SO BECAUSE, ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS, THEY DID NOT HAVE TIME TO PRE-RECORD THEIR TALKS.
2. PHAN KHAC SUU EMPHASIZED NEED FOR FULL AND IMMEDIATE IMPLEMENTATION OF CONSTITUTION. HIS PRESENTATION CONSISTED MAINLY OF PROMISING FULFILLMENT OF VARIOUS MEASURES IN POLITICAL, ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL FIELDS CALLED FOR BY THE CONSTITUTI

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ON.
3. DR. DAN CONCENTRATED HIS TALK ON LAND REFORM. HE SAID THAT 80 PER CENT OF THE VIETNAMESE PEOPLE ARE PEASANTS, LESS THAN HALF OF WHOM OWN THE LAND THEY CULTIVATE. DAN LABELLED GVN AGRARIAN POLICY AS INADEQUATE, PROPOSED FOLLOWING SIX-POINT LAND REFORM PROGRAM: (1) LIMIT OWNERSHIP OF LAND BY ANY ONE INDIVIDUAL TO 50 HECTARES; (2) DISTRIBUTION OF FARMLAND TO PEASANTS; (3) EXEMPT FARMERS FROM TAXES DURING WAR-TIME; (4) LOW-INTEREST LOANS FOR FARMERS REPAYABLE IN COMMODITIES; (5) COMPENSATION OF EXPROPRIATED LANDOWNERS WITH SHARES IN GOVERNMENT-OWNED ENTERPRISES; AND (6) CLEARING AND GRANTING TITLE OF UNCULTIVATED LANDS TO WAR VETERANS.

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4. PHAM HUY CO SAID HIS SLATE STOOD FOR VICTORY OVER COMMUNISM AND CREATION OF NEW SOCIAL ORDER. HE PRAISED VIETNAMESE PEOPLE FOR SACRIFICES OF PAST YEARS AND EXPRESSED CONVICTION THAT WITH NATIONS' RESOURCES AND ALLIED, PARTICULARLY US, ASSISTANCE COUNTRY'S FUTURE IS A BRIGHT ONE.
5. NGUYEN HOA HIEP PRESENTED TEN-POINT PROGRAM WHICH INCLUDED ACCELERATING IMPLEMENTATION OF CONSTITUTION, IMPROVING NATIONAL ECONOMY, AND SEEKING ADMISSION OF SOUTH VIET NAM TO THE UNITED NATIONS. HIEP'S RUNNING-MATE, NGUYEN THE TRUYEN, TOOK LINE THAT WAR CONTINUES BECAUSE NATIONALIST CAMP IS DIVIDED. PEACE, HE SAID, CANNOT BE ACCOMPLISHED UNTIL SOCIAL, POLITICAL ECONOMIC SITUATIONS STABILIZED AND NATIONALISTS HAVE CLOSED RANKS.
6. IN AUGUST 13 RADIO PRESENTATION, VICE-PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE HUYNH CONG DUONG PRESENTED HIS SLATE'S PLAN FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT. DUONG OBSERVED THAT AVERAGE VIETNAMESE PEASANT LIVES IN POVERTY AND INSECURITY. HE SUGGESTED THAT NEW-LIFE HAMLETS BE CONSTRUCTED ONLY IN AREAS WITH POTENTIAL FOR AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT. DUONG

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PROPOSED INCREASED EMPHASIS ON STEPPING UP AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION THROUGH INCREASED LOANS, MECHANIZATION AND IMPROVED AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION WORK.
7. SUMMARY OF TV PRESENTATIONS BY SLATES 1 THROUGH 6 EVENING AUGUST 13 FOLLOWS SEPTEL.
8. COMMENT: FAILURE OF THIEU/KY TO MAKE SCHEDULED RADIO APPEARANCE WILL NOT ESCAPE NOTICE OF POLITICALLY AWARE VIETNAMESE AND LIKELY TO BE INTERPRETED AS ANOTHER INDICATION OF SLATE'S UNWILLINGNESS TO ENGAGE IN JOINT CAMPAIGN ACTIVITIES WITH OTHER CANDIDATES. THERE MAY ALSO BE SOME SPECULATION BY VIETNAMESE THAT NON-APPEARANCE OF THIEU AND KY PROOF OF CONTINUED FRICTION BETWEEN THE TWO GENERALS. TO DATE THEIR ONLY JOINT CAMPAIGN APPEARANCES HAVE BEEN AUGUST 8 MEETINGS WITH LOCAL AND FOREIGN PRESS (SAIGON 2616). BUNKER

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